



State Senator

JUNE 19, 2006

**VALDE GARCIA**

*Serving the 22<sup>nd</sup> District*

*Shiawassee-Livingston-southern Ingham counties*

## **COFFEE BREAK NEWS**

With the closing of the 2006 Michigan State Legislative session, Senator Garcia is pleased to announce that several pieces of his legislation are on their way to the governor for her signature. Garcia is pleased to see the passage of the following bills he authored.

### **Garcia's SB 95: Clarifying the number of instructional hours for schools**

Senate Bill 95 amends the School Code to make the language consistent with the School Aid Act. This Act eliminates the number of instructional "days" a school must be in session per year, and changes it to instructional "hours".

This legislation will help bring the Revised School code into compliance with the School Aid Act by removing the incremental yearly requirements and substituting it for the 1,098 hour instruction requirement.

Although the change from a "day" requirement to an "hours-only" requirement was made in the School Aid Act of the 2003 – 2004 school year, corresponding language in the School Code was never made.

### **Garcia's SB 405: Amends the Construction Lien Act, providing safety for subcontractors and homeowners**

This Act provides protection for homeowners from construction liens filed by subcontractors, laborers or suppliers if the homeowner paid the general contractor and the contractor fails to pay his or her bills.

This bill also provides a right of action for homeowners if a construction lien is filed by an unlicensed contractor. This right of action would allow a homeowner to recover all damages, including actual costs and attorney fees that result from the filing of a lien.

### **Garcia's SBs: 454 & 455: Protects non-profits, vulnerable adults and senior citizens from embezzlement**

This legislation will increase both fines and prison time for embezzlers of non-profit organizations and senior citizens..

Senate Bills 454 and 455 were written in response to a number of recent embezzlement cases and were designed particularly to increase punishment for those who embezzle an amount of \$20,000 or greater. Under current law, the punishment for embezzlement does not increase beyond \$20,000, leaving inadequate consequences for higher amounts.

### **Garcia's SB: 1128: Temporarily adjust child-support payments for deployed National Guard and reserve members**

Senate Bill 1128 will allow for temporary modification in child-support payments for National Guard and reserve members called to military duty.

This law will qualify military deployment as a "change in circumstance" and allow a National Guard or reserve member to pay an adjusted amount in child-support payments if the military member experiences a decrease in compensation.

**Garcia's SB 1110: Increases probation period for child abusers; bill would enable judges to watch abusers for a longer period**

Senate Bill 1110 will increase the probation period to a maximum of five years for individuals convicted of a child-abuse misdemeanor.

Under current law, a district judge may sentence a convicted child abuser who has committed third- or fourth-degree child abuse to a maximum of two years probation. Sen.

Garcia said Senate Bill 1110, is imperative in light of the recent Ricky Holland case.

The current probation period for child abuse is well under the allowed five-year maximum probation placed on individuals convicted of misdemeanor stalking and sex offenses. Garcia said the intention of the legislation "is to send the message that those who abuse a child will merit far more attention than in the past and abuse will not be tolerated."

**Garcia's SB 1288: Protecting the workforce development system and its efforts**

Prior to SB 1288 Michigan Works! was not codified under Michigan Law. SB 1288 does not change Michigan Works' practices or its programs. It simply ensures that this organization's efforts of connecting Michigan businesses with Michigan's workforce is protected by law and continues to receive the funding and support it deserves. Michigan Works! is funded under the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG).